

ANTIQUARIAN.

Old English Historical Documents Unearthed.

The first report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts just laid before Parliament contains some very curious information on the subject of documents, for the most part either wholly unknown or all but forgotten, which have been preserved in the basement story of the House of Lords. They have been, as it were, buried for ages, for no one, except some of the officers of the House of Lords, appears to have had any knowledge of their existence, and, as the commissioners state, their discovery is certainly no slight acquisition to the historical student, throwing, as they do, additional light on several important passages in English history. Among other papers, for instance, the commission have found the original letter, wholly in the handwriting of Charles I., addressed to the House of Lords in May, 1641, recommending that the Earl of Strafford be imprisoned rather than executed, "although he (the King) had satisfied the justice of the kingdom by the passing of the bill of attainder against the earl." Some of the alterations in the letter are curious, showing the King's desire to save Strafford by an exercise of Royal prerogative of pardon without asking a favor of the Parliament. The letter in question will be remembered as the one which contains the remarkable postscript:—"If he must die, it were charity to reprieve him till Saturday." These words seem to have been added, and the alterations above alluded to made some time after the letter was written. It seems that the Peers offered to return into the King's hands the letter itself which he had sent; but he answered, "My lords, what I have written to you, I shall be content it to be registered by you in your House. In it you see my mind. I know you will use it to my honor." And yet, as the commissioners observe, this letter has been to all intents and purposes lost for years, and only just recovered! Another interesting document unearthed by the Commissioners is an original petition from Land while imprisoned in the Tower, but perhaps the most curious of the discoveries made by them is that of the original manuscript of the Book of Common Prayer, which was annexed to the statute 13 and 14 Car. 2, c. 4. This had not been seen since 1824, and was supposed to have been lost or destroyed when the Houses of Parliament were burned. The history of the compilation of this book is sufficiently curious to deserve a few words of passing notice. As is well known, the Parliamentary Commissioners, in 1645, issued an order abolishing the Book of Common Prayer, and King Charles II., upon his restoration, lost no time in restoring the worship sanctioned by the Acts of Uniformity of Edward VI and Queen Elizabeth. Commissioners were appointed in 1661 to review the Book of Common Prayer, and to compare it with "the most ancient liturgies" used by the Church "in the primitive and purest times," and to prepare such alterations and additions as were requisite. Both Houses were engaged on the subject at the same time. The Commons appointed a committee to make search whether these the original Books of Liturgy annexed to the act passed in the reign of Edward VI were still extant. They selected a Prayer Book printed in 1604 to be attached to the bill they were preparing for an Act of Uniformity, provided the Book of Edward VI could not be found. While the Commons were thus engaged the king sent to the House of Lords the Book prepared by his Commissioners appointed by letters patent on March 25, 1661, and of which he approved. The Lords thereupon directed the Book in question to be delivered to the House of Commons, to whom, therefore, two Books were submitted. The bill passed both Houses and became law. It appears that, besides the comments above alluded to, many more have been discovered of great worth and importance. High praise is bestowed by the Commission on the proceedings of Sir John Shaw Lefevre, who has caused the sorting and arrangement of the papers to be begun; and there would appear to be every chance that further documents of great value are still to be discovered among the hitherto almost unexplored mass of miscellaneous papers in the House of Lords.

FASHION IN FUNERALS.

The New York correspondent of the Cincinnati Chronicle gives these funeral items:—"There is a story told of the renowned Mr. Brown, of Grace Church, which illustrates the state of feeling here with regard to burials among the class he serves:—"When the war first broke out a young gentleman said to him, 'What are we to do this winter, Mr. Brown: there will be no parties?'"

"Well, sir, well," was the reply, as he affectionately patted his protuberant waistcoat, "we will do the best we can. We will make the funerals as fashionable and attractive as possible."

"At a fashionable funeral in New York there is as much show, and as much to be seen, as at a fashionable party. The flowers often cost quite as large sums as they do for an evening party. 'I cannot afford to die in New York; it would ruin my family to bury me there,' I heard a gentleman say. A 'handsome funeral' is an event, and talked of and dressed for as is a handsome party, and for the same reason—"one meets all one's friends there." Not long since a lady who had been two years married died. She was young, handsome, and amiable, and her friends loved her. Her parents were in moderate circumstances, her husband a Government clerk, and getting a good salary. The funeral was a show occasion. Her bridal dress, with its rich lace overskirt, was produced and remodelled by a fashionable mantua-maker; this was forced upon her cold, stiff form. A hair-dresser was procured to dress her hair and arrange the bridal veil and orange blossoms. Then the corpse was placed in a magnificent casket, the room was decorated with flowers, the costliest blossoms were woven into urns and wreaths, and crosses and anchors, and dispersed about the walls; the shutters were closed and the gas lighted. Then the crowds, who had heard of these preparations and of this mockery of woe, were admitted, and passed in to gaze upon the still, pale form there."

"After it was over the husband discovered that a year's salary would hardly pay the cost of this 'handsome funeral.'"

WHAT THEY EAT AND DRINK IN SPAIN.

The "Truant Correspondent" of the London Times writes from Seville:—"Of the genuine Spanish living nothing can be learned at the principal hotels, where the dinners are imperfect copies of the French model, regulated by an invincible desire to avoid the piquant and the savory. It must not be inferred from these general remarks that the unsophisticated Spaniard objects to a decided flavor in his food. On the contrary, he has a predilection for those robust luxuries which may be matched in England by the sturdy epicures who covet sprats and black-puddings. I partook of two hearty meals, given at the house of

a private family, not of the aristocratic class, the chief elements in which were small dried sausages, containing whole layers of fat, and strongly flavored with garlic; other sausages preserved in an earthen pot, with yellow-colored lard, which is eaten with them to facilitate their passage down the swallow; snails, boiled and fried, and raw onions of the size of a pigeon's egg. One could not pause over ordinary repasts after the precedent of this 'sensational bill of fare, but any change was welcome after the monotony of the hotel."

"In their drinks, however, the Spaniards are certainly disposed to the insipid, and those innocent beverages which correspond to the ginger-beer, and lemonade of London are remarkable for their faint sickly taste and their lukewarm condition. A really acid lemonade is not to be found, and there is nothing that bites coldly on the palate among the various drinks that are vended in the ornamental kiosks with which the principal squares are dotted, and which are very pretty objects with the large earthen vases of water ranged on a shelf at the back, and the bottles containing the less primitive beverages placed on the counter. Many of these kiosks are kept by Moors, who wear their native costumes. The same people also carry on a trade as itinerant venders of slippers."

"Beer drinking has of late become rather popular in Seville, where a brewery, with a room for the entertainment of retail purchasers, is much frequented. The brewer is a German, and the produce of his industry is of that 'lager beer' kind which, under one name or another, is so familiar to Europe and America. There is, however, a peculiarity of dealing with it, which is not, I think, common out of Spain. A small bottle, with an equal quantity of lemonade, is poured into a bowl and then served into glasses with a ladle. The mixture is on the same principle as that composed of ale and ginger beer on which cockneys confer the appellation of 'shandy gaff.'"

MASON AND DIXON'S LINE.

A CANDIDATE FOR OBLIVION. A few years ago Mason and Dixon's line was a familiar politico-geographical phrase. It is now almost forgotten, but says the Louisville Courier-Journal, it may be well for us to remember that this boundary was so termed from the names of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, the gentlemen appointed to run unfinished lines in 1761 between Pennsylvania and Maryland, on the territories subject to the heirs of Penn and Lord Baltimore. A temporary line had been run in 1753, but had not given satisfaction to the disputing parties, although it resulted from an agreement in 1739 between themselves. A decree had been made in 1613, by King James, delineating the boundaries between the lands given to the first Lord Baltimore, and those adjudged to his Majesty (afterwards to William Penn), which divided the tract between the Delaware bay and the Eastern sea on one side and the Chesapeake on the other, by a line equally intersecting 41° 30' from Cape Henlopen to the fourth degree of north latitude. A decree in chancery rendered the king's decree imperative. But the situation of Hanopen became long a subject of serious, protracted, and expensive litigation, particularly after the death of Penn, in 1713, and of Lord Baltimore in 1714, till John and Richard and Thomas Penn (who had become the sole proprietors of the American possessions of their father, William), and Cecilus Lord Baltimore, grandson of Charles, and great-grandson of Cecilus, the original patentee, entered into an agreement on the 10th of May, 1772. To this agreement a chart was appended which ascertained the site of Cape Henlopen, and delineated a division by an east and west line running westward from that cape to the exact middle of the peninsula. Lord Baltimore became dissatisfied with this agreement, and he endeavored to invalidate it. Chancery suits, singly decrees, and proprietary arguments followed, which eventually produced the appointment of commissioners to run the temporary line. This was effected in 1759. But the cause in chancery being decided in 1759, new commissioners were appointed, who could not, however, agree, and the question remained open till 1761, when the line was run by Messrs. Mason and Dixon.

FOREIGN LITERARY ITEMS.

A statue of Jasmin the poet has been erected at Agen, his native place.

The prize of the University of France, worth 3000 francs, has been awarded to M. Pignot, for his "Histoire de l'Ordre de Cincinnatus."

M. A. de Moltheim has published an elaborate illustrated work on the French Artillery, its costumes, uniforms, and material, from the Middle Ages to the present day.

A small volume forming part of E. Treves' "Bibliotheca Amena" contains an excellent translation into Italian of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. The translation, which is much praised by the *Rivista Europea*, is by Professor Pasqualigo.

A very important literary discovery was made a few days ago in the library belonging to a church in Legnitz, in Silesia. It consists of a Codex of Livy, the existence of which had been noticed in a catalogue of that library, dated 1604, but only now has the search after it been successful. It contains nearly the whole of the Fourth Decade.

The Baron and Baroness Reinsberg-Düringsfeld have written a work, entitled "Hochzeitsbuch," on the principal marriage rites and customs of Indo-European peoples. This book—which is in a great part founded on the excellent material collected by Professor Angelo De Gubernatis in his learned works, "Storia Comparata degli Usi Nazionali"—will be illustrated by numerous interesting plates. The first part treats of the Scandinavian customs.

Mr. E. Magnusson proposes to issue, by subscription, the text of an ancient and famous Icelandic hymn, "The Lily, a Song to the Blessed Virgin," by Eysteinn Asgrímsson, who died in 1361, a brother of the Augustine monastery of Thykkirker. The poem will be printed from a vellum MS. in the British Museum, and accompanied by rhymed translations close to the original; a life of the author, a treatise on the metre and sources of the poem, a glossary, notes, and various readings.

Dr. Chenu has published a highly interesting work, "De la Mortalité dans l'Armée et des Moyens d'Économiser la Vie Humaine," based on the medical statistics of the campaigns of the French Army in the Crimea in 1854-56, and in Italy in 1859. More men were lost by disease than by the hands of the enemy, even though they had the best arms of destruction. Dr. Chenu has carefully investigated the causes of this fact, and explains the means to be adopted to remedy such a fatal state of things.

M. de la Ferrière Percy, who was sent on a diplomatic mission to St. Petersburg, discovered in the Russian archives, a despatch written to Catherine by M. du Ferrier, the French Ambassador at Venice—in which the writer does not pretend to conceal the fact

that, abroad, the conception of the Massacre of St. Bartholomew was attributed to Catherine and her son, the Duc d'Anjou; and, moreover, that there was good reason for the surprise expressed that Catherine should take the side of Philip the Second of Spain, who was generally believed to have murdered her daughter. A despatch has now been discovered by M. de Barthelemy, at the Bibliothèque Imperiale, which is a reply to that of M. du Ferrier. The Queen, with little circumlocution, declares that she ordered measures to be taken which were, in her opinion, the only means of punishing the rebellion and disobedience of Admiral de Coligny and his party; but she regrets that in the excitement many other persons of the same religion were killed by the Catholics. The cool terms in which the feeling of regret is expressed are characteristic of the woman; and she adds, that among the motives which led to the massacre was the desire to gain liberty of action enough to enable her to punish Philip the Second, who was suspected of having poisoned his wife, Elizabeth; Catherine had at first vainly tried to marry her second daughter to the widower!

FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFE

The Herring's Champion Again!

HENDERSON, N. C., May 27, 1870. Messrs. Farrel, Herring & Co., No. 807 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

GENTLEMEN—On the morning of the 17th inst. our town was visited with the severest conflagration that ever occurred in this place, burning the whole business portion, including forty (40) buildings, mostly stores. I was the fortunate owner of one of Miss G. Herring's Safes, which passed through the hottest part of the fire—the brass plates and knobs being melted off. The safe contained all my books, valuable papers, and greenbacks, all being safe and unopened. The safe I found the contents entirely unharmed. Yours, respectfully, D. E. YOUNG.

ONCE MORE.

HENDERSON, N. C., May 27, 1870. Messrs. Farrel, Herring & Co., No. 807 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

GENTLEMEN—On the morning of the 17th of May our town was visited by one of those unwelcome visitors that left the town almost entirely in ashes, burning every business house in town, but being one of the fortunate, having one of Farrel, Herring & Co.'s Improved Chamberlain Safes. When the fire had ceased we found our safe with the brass melted off, but the contents, consisting of books, papers, etc., all in perfect order. Yours, respectfully, J. G. YANOEY.

STILL ANOTHER.

HENDERSON, N. C., May 27, 1870. Messrs. Farrel, Herring & Co., No. 807 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

GENTLEMEN—On the morning of the 17th inst. the village of Henderson was mostly destroyed by fire—all the business houses were consumed. Being in possession of one of your celebrated Champion Safes, which was in the rear portion of the store and was much exposed to the flames. We found, on opening the safe after it got cooled off, that the contents were unharmed. The test satisfied us that your Safes are proof against fire. Respectfully, yours, BURWELL & PARHAM.

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"The most reliable protection from fire known."

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Combining wrought iron and hardened steel, and iron welded with the patent Franklinite or "Spiegel Eisen," afford protection against burglars to an extent not heretofore known.

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